

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 15014 210952Z

21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /066 W

----- 063058

R 210931Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4240

INFO USLO PEKING

UNCLAS TOKYO 15014

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, CH

SUBJECT: JAPANESE PRESS REACTION TO SECVISIT

1. OCTOBER 20 MORNING EDITIONS OF MAINICHI AND SANKEI GAVE HEADLINE FRONT-PAGE PLAY TO KISSINGER ARRIVAL IN PEKING AND BANQUET STATEMENTS BY FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO AND SECRETARY; HEADLINES EMPHASIZED "CONFIRM 'OPPOSITION TO HEGEMONY'; 'EVERY EFFORT TO AVOID CONFRONTATION'" (MAINICHI), AND "SECRETARY KISSINGER STATES OPPOSITION TO HEGEMONY; CONFIRMS SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE; FRIENDSHIP; BASIS FOR COMMON INTERESTS" (SANKEI). ASAHI, YOMIURI, NIHON KEIZAI AND TOKYO SHIMBUN GAVE FRONTPAGE BUT LESS PROMINENT PLAY, STRESSING "CONFIRM PROMOTION OF FRIENDSHIP;" "FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO EMPHASIZES RESOLUTE FIGHT AGAINST HEGEMONY;" "FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO URGES MATERIALIZATION OF 'SHANGHAI SPIRIT'"; AND "SECRETARY KISSINGER ENTERS PEKING; STATES OPPOSITION TO HEGEMONY;" RESPECTIVELY. SANKEI STORY ACCOMPANIED BY LENGTHY VERSIONS OF CHIAO-KISSINGER GREETINGS AT WELCOME DINNER, PLUS COMMENTARY EMPHASIZING "JAPAN'S DELICATE POSITION" AND "US SELF-CONFIDENCE IN DETENTE WITH USSR."

2. OCTOBER 20 EVENING EDITIONS OF MOST TOKYO PAPERS ON PAGE 1 OR 2 CARRIED SAME BRIEF KYODO REPORT ON FIRST KISSINGER CONFERENCE WITH TENG HSIAO-PING. VERY SKETCHY REPORT NOTED NAMES OF PARTICIPANTS AND LACK OF CLEAR FUTURE SCHEDULE.

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EM OCTOBER 21 MORNING EDITIONS AGAIN CARRIED VERY BRIEF JAPANESE CORRESPONDENT REPORTS FROM PEKING, NOTING KISSINGER-TENG TALKS HELD TWICE ON 20TH. STORIES EMPHASIZED LACK OF INFORMATION ON TALKS CONTENTS, WHICH CENTERED ON "GENERAL INTERNATIONAL SITUATION," WHILE CITING US SPOKESMAN REMARK "TALKS WERE FRIENDLY AND FRANK." TOKYO SHIMBUN DISPATCH WENT FURTHER IN SPECULATION "IT IS SEEN THAT POST-INDOCHINA SITUATION AND KOREAN PROBLEM, UN DISCUSSIONS ON WHICH WILL START FROM 21ST, BECAME FOCAL POINTS."

4. WHILE KISSINGER WAS EN ROUTE TO PEKING, OCTOBER 18 SANEKI EDITORIAL INTERPRETED "MEANING AND BACKGROUND" OF CHINA VISIT, STRESSING THREE ELEMENTS: 1) KISSINGER CHINA VISITS HAVE BECOME "PERIODIC," 2) NORMALIZATION OF SINO-US RELATIONS NOT EXPECTED, BUT EXPANSION OF ECONOMIC-TRADE FIELDS TO BECOME FOCAL POINT, AND 3) DEVELOPMENT OF KOREAN PROBLEM ALONG LINE OF KISSINGER PROPOSAL AT UN FOR CONFERENCES OF INTERESTED PARTIES. OCTOBER 19 TOKYO SHIMBUN EDITORIALIZED, "AT US- CHINA TALKS, CONSPICUOUS PROGRESS NOT FORESEEN IN RELATIONS BETWEEN TWONATIONS..MUST BE SAID IMPETUOUS TO HOLD VIEW FOR TIE-UP AMONG JAPAN, US AND CHINA," AND CONCLUDED "JAPAN IS NOT IN POSITION TO JOIN POWER GAME AMONG US, CHINA AND USSR, NOT HAVING REAL POWER FOR THAT PURPOSE."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TOKYO15014
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750364-1129
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751035/aaaabfia.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 SEP 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <12 FEB 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE PRESS REACTION TO SECVISIT
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, US, CH, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006